REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4, 7, 11, and 17 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, and 14-17 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS:

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 2, claim 12 (we believe this is a typographical error since claim 12 has been cancelled, and that the Examiner means claim 17 instead) was objected to.

Claim 17 has been amended for clarity. However, the preamble of claim 17 is respectfully submitted to be clear, and has not been amended.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection to claim 17 is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at pages 2-5, numbered paragraph 4, claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ackerman (USPN 5,555,461; hereafter, Akerman). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 11 have been amended to include the terminology "wherein the moisture suction portion draws in moisture from outside through the plurality of moisture suction holes and stores the moisture in the moisture store portion."

It is respectfully submitted that Ackerman does not recite: "A wet-type wiping apparatus of an inkjet printer to clean a print head of the inkjet printer, the wet-type wiping apparatus comprising:

a moisture storing portion;

a moisture suction portion disposed on an upper side of the moisture storing portion and having a plurality of moisture suction holes; and

a wiper portion penetrating in the moisture storing portion and having a plurality of capillary tubes vertically penetrating therein,

wherein the moisture suction portion draws in moisture from outside through the plurality of moisture suction holes and stores the moisture in the moisture store portion," as is recited in amended claim 1, and in similar fashion in amended independent claims 4, 7, and 11.

Hence, the present invention discloses the moisture suction portion 103, for example, to draw in moisture from the outside. However, Ackerman discloses no moisture suction portion, but rather a structure to transport the ink through the grooves 62 of the blades 30, 31 to the absorbent pad 41.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 11 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Ackerman (USPN 5,555,461). Since claims 2, 5, 9, 14, and 16, respectively, depend from amended independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 11, respectively, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 5, 9, 14 and 16 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Ackerman (USPN 5,555,461) for at least the reasons that amended independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 11 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Ackerman (USPN 5,555,461).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at pages 5-9, numbered paragraph 6, claims 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ackerman. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 17 have been amended to recite, in part: "wherein the moisture suction portion draws in moisture from outside through the plurality of moisture suction holes and stores the moisture in the moisture store portion."

Hence, the present invention discloses the moisture suction portion to draw in moisture from the outside. In contrast, Ackerman does not disclose or teach a moisture suction portion, but rather discloses a structure to transport the ink through the grooves 62 of the blades 30, 31 to the absorbent pad 41.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Ackerman recites a process wherein the ink accumulated on the blades runs or drips onto the collection surface, then drains into the lower portion thereof into a pad of absorbent material, as recited in col. 4, lines 34-45, of Ackerman, reproduce below for the convenience of the Examiner:

> Since the collection surface is located within the structural member 32 and adjacent the wiper blades 30, 31, both the ink ejected onto the collection surface or ink accumulated on the blades may run or drip off the blades and be collected on the collection surface which is substantially parallel to the printhead nozzle face and oriented in a direction so that the force of gravity causes the ink on the collection surface to drain into the lower portion thereof, where an opening 34 is located for the ink to drain therethrough into a pad of absorbent material 41 (shown in FIG. 2) behind the collection surface 33 of the structural member 32. (emphasis added)

In addition, as recited in col. 4, lines 14-34, of Ackerman, repeated below for the convenience of the Examiner, Ackerman uses the collection surface as a "spittoon," not as a "moisture suction portion," as is recited in the present claimed invention:

> Adjacent the wiper blades in the direction away from the printing zone and at a predetermined location along the translating path of the print cartridge is a collection surface 33 in the fixedly mounted structural member 32. The carriage will position the print cartridge at this collection surface, sometimes referred to as a spit station or spittoon, after the print cartridge has been away from the maintenance station for a specific length of time, even if continually printing, because not all nozzles will have ejected enough ink droplets to prevent the ink or meniscus in the little used nozzles from drying and becoming too viscous. Accordingly, the print cartridge will be moved by, for example, a carriage motor (not shown) under the control of the printer controller (not shown) past the wiper blade assembly, cleaning the nozzle face, and to the predetermined location confronting the collection surface 33, whereat the printer controller causes the printhead to eject a number of ink droplets per nozzle therein. In the preferred embodiment, the printhead will eject about 25 ink droplets per nozzle onto the collection surface. (emphasis added)

The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines a "spittoon" as a receptacle for spit. A receptacle is defined by Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary as "one that receives and contains something." In contrast, the moisture suction portion of the present claimed invention "draws in moisture," thus "sucking in moisture from the outside," as is recited in paragraph [0025] of the specification:

> [0025] The moisture suction portion 103 draws in moisture from the outside through a moisture suction hole 103a and stores the moisture in the moisture storing portion 105, which will be described later. According to an embodiment of the present invention, the moisture suction portion 103 is comprised of one of calcium chloride, a silica gel, and a high molecular weight substance which is highly absorbent, thus sucking in moisture from the outside. (emphasis added)

Hence, it is respectfully submitted that the moisture suction portion of the present claimed invention, which draws in moisture, is not the same structure as the collection surface of Ackerman, which serves as a "spittoon" or receptacle. Hence, Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion (first paragraph, page 6 of the Office Action) that "a high molecular weight absorbent substance as recited in this claim is one of the selections for the material of the fixed structural member (32) having the collection surface (33) in Ackerman's invention."

Ackerman's fixed structural member and collection surface are not absorbent substances, but rather constitute a receptacle into which ink is collected and allowed to drain onto an absorbent pad. In contrast, the present claimed invention utilizes the absorbent material of the moisture suction portion to draw in moisture and collect the moisture in the moisture storing portion.

Hence, amended independent claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 17 are respectfully submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ackerman (USPN 5,555,461). Since claims 3, 6, 10, and 15 depend from amended independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 11, respectively, claims 3, 6, 10 and 15 are submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ackerman (USPN 5,555,461) for at least the reasons that amended independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ackerman (USPN 5,555,461).

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: March 9, 2006 By: Darleen J. Stockley
Darleen J. Stockley
Registration No. 34,257

1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501